SUBSTITUTES FOR THE PROMISED LAND.

Nu.32:1,5. Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle, they came unto Moses and said, "Let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession; bring us not over the Jordan."

INTRO:-The background of the text.

1. Reuben and Gad an integral part of the Israelites. Common origin, common God, common hope, common discipline, and a common expectation.

2. Their rejection of their inheritance in Canaan, choosing rather the land of Jazer and Gilead.
   Material advantages outweighing the supreme gift of God.
   The moment's gain hiding the Future's greater opportunity.
   An earthly existance supplanting their highest, spiritual living and being.

Is it any wonder that the tribes of Reuben and Gad never passed from the pastoral to the agricultural stage of civilization? that from their ranks came no type of heroic manhood or statesmanship? and that after a fighting existance they were finally swallowed up by a superior people?

There is but one thing needful in life--to possess God. It is our constantly choosing other than God that causes all our troubles and keeps us from possessing God's supreme Gift. Reubenlike and Gadlike we substitute other things for the things that God wants us to have. It is this habit of substituting the lower for the higher that constitutes our theme for tonight.

The process is so subtle and unbeknown to us that before we realize it we are done for — dead
The frog gradually heated! .0036

CHOICE.

The Outlook.

Not what we have, but what we use,
Not what we see, but what we choose;
These are the things that mar or bless,
The sum of human happiness.

The thing near by, not that afar;
Not what we seem, but what we are;
These are the things that make or break,
That give the heart its joy or ache.

Not what seems fair, but what is true;
Not what we dream, but good we do;
These are the things that shine like gems,
Like stars in fortune's diadems.

Not as we take, but as we give,
Not as we pray, but as we live;
These are the things that make for peace
Both now and after time shall cease.

I. Substituting the easier for the harder way.

1. Ease and comfort and plenty not conducive to development.
2. Trial and testing, endurance and hardship necessary to the growth of a strong and rugged character.

II. Substituting the alluring for the less fascinating.

1. The tendency in school to make everything interesting.
2. The taste-buds worn out by strong tasting things--pepper. We should create a liking for potatoes and vegetables. We should create a taste for the solid things of life.

"the good enough for the possible better,

III. Substituting ~~a lesser evil for a greater one.~~
~~(Two wrongs can never make a right.).~~

1. ~~A lesser evil never can right a greater one.~~
2. ~~Evil cannot be gotten rid of with more evil.~~

IV. Substituting policy for principle.

1. "Does it pay?" the curse of the world today.
2. We need a revival of principle-worship.

V. Substituting compromises for an unquestionable attitude and conduct.

1. The compromise of the Reubenites and the Gaddites.
2. Such compromises never pay, they always result disasterously

~~Mr. [illegible]~~

VI. Substituting benevolence for justice.

1. The tendence to cover up injustice with good deeds.
2. Not charity, but a square deal is what we want.

the insect with jaws & catching nippers concealed.

VII. Substituting an earthly existance for a Heavenly living.

The experience of the prodical son.
Read from "Beauty for Ashes".

The Heavenly Life is gained by way of the Cross!